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For Immediate Release

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Chesterfield County Economic Development

Opens Call for Nominations for 2009

First Choice Business Awards

Each year, Chesterfield County honors local companies that contribute to the county's economy and its residents. The intent is to give recognition to businesses that consistently contribute to the community by giving back to the residents of Chesterfield County through community service, or create and deliver products or services that are innovative to its customers. Other criteria include that a business is a leader in valuing its employees, and upholds the principles and standards of ethical business practices. Past winners have included, Boulevard Flower Gardens, Getloaded.com and BluePrint Automation Inc.

On behalf of Chesterfield County, the Department of Economic Development, the Chesterfield County Chamber of Commerce, and the Chesterfield Business Council are inviting nominations for the 2009 First Choice Business Awards. Companies may nominate themselves and/or be nominated by any individual or group within the community. All nominated companies will receive a formal application form to be completed by the nominee.

Winners will be chosen by a selection panel, which will consist of business leaders and county staff selected for their business and community knowledge. The selection panel will then interview businesses that meet the general eligibility criteria before final winners are chosen.

The winners will be recognized at Chesterfield County's *Celebrate Chesterfield Business!* event. The Board of Supervisors also will recognize this year's First Choice Business Awards winners at their May meeting. *Celebrate Chesterfield Business!* is the county's annual business appreciation event held each May during the commonwealth of Virginia's Annual Business Appreciation Week – May 10th through May 16th.

Nominations may be submitted online at www.chesterfieldbusiness.com/award/